

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 11556 220013Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 NSAE-00 OES-07
SNM-05 TRSE-00 /048 W
-----005954 230212Z /65

R 210955Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3376
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 11556

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION BANGKOK, FROM AMCONSUL CHIANG
MAI ON (O 210832Z APR 78 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE:

S E C R E T CHIANG MAI 148

WARNING NOTICE--SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE METHODS AND
SOURCES INVOLVED

E.O.11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM
SUBJECT: BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN DOI LANG

REF: CHIANG MAI 140

1. WHILE WE HAVE LITTLE NEW TO REPORT ON BURMESE
OPERATIONS IN THE DOI LANG AREA, IT DOES APPEAR THAT
THE DISSIDENT GROUPS HAVE COMPLETELY EVACUATED THE
AREA AND THAT SOME HAVE TAKEN REFUGE INSIDE THAILAND.
DESPITE OFFICIAL THAI PRONOUNCEMENTS OF RTG INTENTION
NOT TO ALLOW BORDER SANCTUARY, WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE
THAT THAI OFFICIALS HAVE ACTUALLY FORCED ANYONE BACK
ACROSS THE BORDER INTO BURMA.

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2. THE LOCAL THAI LANGUAGE PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT
THE BURMESE OPERATION WITH EMPHASIS ON THE ANTI-NARCOTICS
AIMS OF THE BURMESE ACTION. CHIANG MAI DAILY, RAMING,
DESCRIBES THE BURMESE ACTION AS AN ATTEMPT AT ARRESTING
SUCH "HEROIN KINGPINS" AS LO HSING MINH. THE
NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO REPORTED IN SOME DETAIL THE CROSS

BORDER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE BURMESE AND THAI OFFICIALS AND HAVE GIVEN SOME PLAY TO BURMESE REQUESTS THAT THE THAI LOCATE AND ARREST THE KNOWN TRAFFICKERS THAT FLED TO THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE BURMESE OPERATIONS TO DATE DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED THE HEROIN PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF THE BORDER AREA, WE ARE INITIALLY ENCOURAGED BY THE REPORTS OF THE CROSS BORDER COMMUNICATION THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE BURMESE INITIATED THE OPERATION. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE BURMESE OPERATION HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE MAJOR PRODUCER IN THE AREA, THE SHAN UNITED ARMY (SUA). HOWEVER, WE MUST ADMIT THAT THE LACK OF SUA INVOLVEMENT IN THE CURRENT OPERATION MAY BE ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THERE HAVE BEEN FEWER PROBLEMS IN CORSS BORDER COMMUNICATION THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN PREVIOUS HOHEIN OPERATIONS WHEN SUA WAS A PRIMARY TARGET.
TANNER
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG TRAFFIC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO11556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780173-0174
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780433/aaaabbkm.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 074e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CHIANG MAI 140
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2898200
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN DOI LANG
TAGS: SNAR, PBOR, TH, BM
To: STATE RANGOON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/074e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014